

HO-1077  
Charles Frey House  
2985 Bethany Lane  
Private

**Description:**

The Charles Frey House is a 2 ½-story, three-bay by two-bay frame structure with a two-story, three-bay by one-bay ell on the rear that is the same width as the main block. Both portions have a rubble stone foundation, vinyl siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The main block has a ridge that runs north-south, with a cross-gable ridge that runs east-west and continues on the ell. There is an interior brick chimney on the north gable end and another about 5 feet west of the east gable end. The west elevation has a center doorway with sidelights and transom, and paired new four-over-four sash to each side, in the end bays. There is a one-story, four-bay long porch that wraps around the south side. The south bay of the porch is enclosed. The cross-gable has a one-over-one sash. Also on the property are a small, one-story, one-bay square outbuilding that could be a smokehouse, and a garage.

**Significance:**

The Charles Frey House sits on one of two tracts that were sold to the Fry family in 1885 by Adam and Sarah Noll. Hester Fry, the wife of Charles Fry, died two years after buying her lot, at the age of about 36. Charles Frey was a retail grocer, according to both the 1880 and 1900 censuses, and most likely was living and working in Ellicott City. By 1910 he had remarried and was operating a general store, and in 1920 was living on the south Frederick Turnpike in Ellicott City and still running his store. Frey died in 1922 and his children sold this property to Elizabeth Schnapp (nee Frey). The house certainly appears that it could date to c. 1885, but the census data suggests that Frey never lived here. It is possible that he built the house with the intention of moving, but decided not to after Hester's death, or that it was built as a summer residence. It seems unlikely that it was built by Schnapp, since the cross-gabled I-house would be very rare in 1922, but, failing additional information, the full story of the house must remain unknown. The existence of an ell that is the same width as the main block is very unusual. The property has been continually subdivided since the 1950s and is now reduced to 20,000 square feet.

Inventory No. HO-1077

**1. Name of Property** (indicate preferred name)

historic Charles Frey House

other

## 2. Location

street and number 2985 Bethany Lane \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Ellicott City X vicinity

county	Howard
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**3. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	John Spears & Ellen Jacobs
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street and number 2985 Bethany Lane

telephone

city, town	Ellicott City	state	MD	zip code	21042
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#### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Howard County Courthouse	liber	7021	folio	126
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city, town	Ellicott City	tax map	17	tax parcel	663	tax ID number
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## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

## 6. Classification

## Category

\_\_\_\_\_ district  
  X   building(s)  
\_\_\_\_\_ structure  
\_\_\_\_\_ site  
\_\_\_\_\_ object

## Ownership

\_\_\_\_\_ public  
 \_\_\_\_\_ X private  
 \_\_\_\_\_ both

### Current Function

<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape
<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture
<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress
<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown
<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use
<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
3	1	Total

Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory

1

## 7. Description

Inventory No. HO-1077

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### Summary:

The Charles Frey House is a 2 ½-story, three-bay by two-bay frame structure with a two-story, three-bay by one-bay ell on the rear that is the same width as the main block. Both portions have a rubble stone foundation, vinyl siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The main block has a ridge that runs north-south, with a cross-gable ridge that runs east-west and continues on the ell. There is an interior brick chimney on the north gable end and another about 5 feet west of the east gable end. The west elevation has a center doorway with sidelights and transom, and paired new four-over-four sash to each side, in the end bays. There is a one-story, four-bay long porch that wraps around the south side. The south bay of the porch is enclosed. The cross-gable has a one-over-one sash. Also on the property are a small, one-story, one-bay square outbuilding that could be a smokehouse, and a garage.

### Description:

#### House

The Charles Frey House is located at 2985 Bethany Lane, on the east side of the road and set close to it, and faces west toward the road, in north-central Howard County, Maryland. The house is a 2 ½-story, three-bay by two-bay frame structure with a two-story, three-bay by one-bay ell on the rear that is the same width as the main block. Both portions have a rubble stone foundation, vinyl siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The main block has a ridge that runs north-south, with a cross-gable ridge that runs east-west and continues on the ell. There is an interior brick chimney on the north gable end and another about 5 feet west of the east gable end.

The west elevation has a center doorway with sidelights and transom, and paired new four-over-four sash to each side, in the end bays. There is a one-story, four-bay long porch that wraps around the south side. It has a wood deck, five wood Doric columns, and a half-hip roof with asphalt shingles. The south bay of the porch is enclosed, in line with the west wall of the main block, with paired new four-over-four sash. The second story has three new four-over-four sash, with fake blinds, and the cross-gable has a one-over-one sash. There is a box cornice with returns.

The north elevation of the main block has two small new four-over-four sash with fake blinds on the first story. The second story has a new four-over-four sash with fake blinds in the east bay, and there is no opening in the gable end. The north elevation of the ell has a single new four-over-four sash with fake blinds on the first story and a new six-over-six sash on the second story.

The south elevation of the main block is covered by the enclosed porch, which has four new four-over-four sash. The east end of this porch has two new four-over-four sash. The second story has a new six-

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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light sash with fake blinds in the east bay, and the gable end has a one-over-one sash. The south elevation of the ell has paired new four-over-four sash with fake blinds on the first story and a new six-over-six sash with fake blinds on the second story. There is a one-story addition on the east end of the ell, with the same siding and a shed roof with asphalt shingles. The south elevation has a new small octagonal sash.

The east elevation of the ell has the addition covering the south half of the first story, with a modern deck on the north half and double doors to the deck. The second story has two new six-over-six sash, and the gable end has a one-over-one sash.

### **Outbuildings**

East of the house about 40 feet is a small, one-story, one-bay square outbuilding that could be a smokehouse, with board and batten siding and a gable roof of standing-seam metal with an east-west ridge. There is a vertical-board door on the west elevation.

About 15 feet south of the small outbuilding is a garage that is one story and three bays by four bays. It has vertical board siding and a gable roof with standing-seam metal and an east-west ridge. The west elevation has a pair of vertical-board doors on rollers in the north and center bays, with a modern door with nine lights over a crossbuck in the south bay. The gable end has a new small octagonal sash. The south elevation has four new windows.

There is also a modern shed to the southeast of the garage.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-1077

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Construction dates c. 1885-1910

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Charles Frey House sits on one of two tracts that were sold to the Fry family in 1885 by Adam and Sarah Noll. Samuel Fry purchased over 16 acres for \$504.37 ½ and several months later Hester Frey purchased 10 ¾ acres for \$322. Given the low cost, clearly both lots were unimproved. Samuel Frey's lot was sold back and forth amongst his family without getting built on. Hester Fry, the wife of Charles Fry, died two years after buying her lot, at the age of about 36. Charles Frey was a retail grocer, according to both the 1880 and 1900 censuses, and most likely was living and working in Ellicott City. By 1910 he had remarried and was operating a general store, and in 1920 was living on the south Frederick Turnpike in Ellicott City and still running his store. Frey died in 1922 and his children sold this property to Elizabeth Schnapp (nee Frey), probably one of Samuel Frey's daughters. The sale price was listed as \$5.00. She added Samuel Fry's lot in 1927, which cost her \$550, and sold both in 1934 for \$1,400. The value of the two lots, sold in the midst of the Great Depression, suggests that one of them had the house on it; this was almost certainly Charles Fry's lot, though this history raises some difficult questions.

The house certainly appears that it could date to c. 1885, but the census data suggests that Frey never lived here. It is possible that he built the house with the intention of moving, but decided not to after Hester's death, or that it was built as a summer residence. The paired windows would be more common in the twentieth century, though they can be seen in similar houses in Woodstock built in the late 1890s. It seems unlikely that the house was built by Schnapp, since the cross-gabled I-house would be very rare in 1922, but, failing additional information, the full story of the house must remain unknown. The house likely has a lobby entry with the two rooms in the main block divided by a center stairway, and there are likely two rooms in the ell, one of them the original kitchen. The existence of an ell that is the same width as the main block is very unusual. There are few original features on the exterior with which to date the building any more closely. The property has been continually subdivided since the 1950s and is now reduced to 20,000 square feet.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-1077

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 20,377 sq. ft.  
Acreage of historical setting 10 3/4 A  
Quadrangle name Ellicott City

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the outlines of the property, tax map 17, parcel 663, which encompasses all of the historic buildings and features on the site.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	March 2012
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



HO-1077  
Charles Frey House  
2985 Bethany Lane  
Ellicott City quad

HO-1077  
Charles Frey House  
2985 Bethany Lane  
Howard County, Maryland  
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

Nikon D-70 camera  
HP Premium Plus paper  
HP Gray Photo print cartridge

HO-1077\_2011-12-02\_01  
House, west & south elevations

HO-1077\_2011-12-02\_02  
Outbuildings, west elevations



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Charles Frey House

2985 Bethany Lane

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-12-02

MD SHPO

House, west + south elevations

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HO-1077

Charles Frey House

2985 Bethany Lane

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-12-02

MD SHPO

Outbuildings, west elevations

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